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western Europe, he ignores the fact that tin also reached southern Germany and Switzerland through Italy and Idria, and since it is his tendency to place much stress on the penetration of France by human currents of German origin in former times, he should not have lost sight of this interesting, though newly discovered fact.

When we turn to the subsequent Chapters or rather "Parts" of the volume we are confronted by what the author calls "Regional Description." We are, therefore, entitled to find in it a description of France by geographical sections according to the vague indications expressed in the preface. The vagueness is richly represented and carried out with great thoroughness. Fact, so ardently looked for by the reader and possessed by the author in abundance, is lost in sounding phrases. Let us take, for instance, what he says about the "Site of Paris":

Between the forests occupying the sands of the heights and the gravels enclosed around Paris by river-branches, are seen intervals (expanses) that always were open, sunny and more or less protected from overflows. On the south the slimy plateau with calcareous subsoil of Villejuif, exceeding by 60 mètres in height the plateau of the Seine, intercalates itself between the masses of timber that stand yet in the Brie, and those of the Hurepoix. Quarries and subterraneous galleries perforate it. Sheets or rugs covered by crops expand still over it to the gates of the capital. On the north between the forests of Bondy on one hand and those of Montmorency and Carnelle on the other, we soon see rising a dry and fertile platform that joins itself to the platform of the Valois. It was these miry and porous expanses which, ere the Brie had divested itself of its timber, directly contiguous to the great bow of the Seine, allowed the existence of a grouping of population; they are what formed that nucleus of crystallization which is the rudiment of every human society. Man found there easily and at the same time, food and material for constructions, that is, the requirements for stability and increase. It was easy afterwards for the populations who settled there, to improve, little by little, the various advantages of the places where they had made their home. The meanderings of the rivers, the sinuosities of hill-sides, openings in the timber offered numerous new combinations to their ingenuity and their selection.

We translate as literally as possible and would only add that the author forgets to include in his elements of first attractiveness, that of security, of safety for abode, which was just as important in the earliest times as any of the others mentioned.

Further quotations are useless, the whole book is written in the same manner. It is descriptive, full of hints at facts, but without salient data. No definite characteristics; a would-be geography without the idea that geography is an exact science and that, while it manifestly must draw within its compass other branches of science and render them subservient to its aims, these should be treated with equal consideration to concreteness and clearness of exposition. To reduce geography to a dry tabular representation in which figures play the principal part, is certainly not the way to present it, but to diffuse it into mere description without the aid of positive fact is an equally erroneous and far more hurtful extreme. This extreme has been, unfortunately for what he *could* have done, the line which Mr. Vidal de la Blache has followed. A. F. B.

The Continent of Opportunity. The South American Republics—Their History, Their Resources, Their Outlook. Together with a Traveller's Impressions of Present-Day Conditions. By Francis E. Clark. Fleming H. Revell Co., New York, 1907.

Five months spent in "study" of *eight* South American Republics and in travelling fifteen thousand miles by sea authorize Mr. Clark to thrust upon a benevolent public an utterly worthless volume, poorly illustrated and, furthermore, inspired by religious proselytism of a rather blustering nature. To point out the errors and misstatements in regard to history, ethnography, geography

and present conditions of the countries the perambulating preacher has infested would be a waste of time. They are too numerous and the character of the work is beneath mediocrity. The conceit of the author in pretending to present in this volume anything but a display of ignorance and incompetency goes beyond the patience of those who know the subjects of which he professes to treat. His book is one more contribution to an unnecessary literature already far too extensive in English.

A. F. B.

Dalmatia. By Maude M. Holbach. New York, John Lane, 1908.

Eureka! Dalmatia is rediscovered! Naturally, such a feat could only have been performed by Britishers, the woman illustrating the man's photographs by a text in English and the man illuminating her writings by very handsome pictures. It must be said that the book is a most attractive one, especially for British tourists. Its design is evidently to direct the travelling Englishman to Dalmatia and to infuse in him the regret that those Austrian shores, once marked by the preponderance of the British flag, were turned over to Austria for safe-keeping. There is, through the whole book, a suppressed sigh at the fact of Dalmatia not having become British. In the chapter on Lissa two pages and a half are consecrated to a wail over the time when the English infested the picturesque shores of the Adriatic; for the naval engagement of Lissa in 1866, one of the most remarkable sea-fights on record, there is barely a line.

These are failings which may be pardoned. British literature on foreign countries is, like history written by British authors, an attempt to describe what is seen through a mist. But it must be said that, in spite of its insular failings, this book deserves, from a literary standpoint, unusual commendation. It is very well written and exceedingly well planned. The author presents, perhaps, too fair a picture of the Dalmatians. But it is pleasant to read, once in a while, a fair and evidently honest and disinterested judgment by tourists. The dark sides of Dalmatian character are not alluded to, probably because the writers did not come into close contact with the people.

The description of Dalmatia is superior to that of Baedeker. The latter gives a matter-of-fact directory. The authors of this book impart more information of a certain kind (chiefly historical) and make it more valuable to the reader through the personal element which pervades the volume. It may be said that the book has the merit of being, without pretension, geography very much alive; the author does not claim geographical elaboration, there are no statistics, no dreary accumulations of so-called data and assumed facts, the map adjoining the volume is but an incidental, though a valuable, guide, and the geographical importance of the work consists in the lifelike descriptions, in the historical indications that run like an unbroken thread through the whole fabric, and the persistent blending of nature, as a basis, with the highly interesting historical past of the country. The author introduces us into a wing, so to say, of art which is not generally known. Her judgment on such subjects is not always correct, but it is always honest and we are seldom misled by her intentionally.

Taking advantage of the proximity of Dalmatia to the territory of Montenegro and of the splendid road made by Austria towards Cetinje, the writers also visited that little and less known spot of southern Europe. The account of the people and country is only the result of a flying visit, but it is always a glimpse at something hardly ever seen or mentioned, and as such an agreeable corollary to the rest of the volume.

A. F. B.